

# THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

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10th December 1958

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Dear [redacted]

At long last I am able to give you some news about our interest in monitoring in East Africa, which was the subject of discussion between us in Washington this year.

After much consideration our official consumers here have at last expressed intense interest in monitoring in this area, particularly in African languages, and at very short notice we have mounted a survey to establish what can be heard of broadcasts to and in Africa in the area, and to find out what local interest there would be in an actual monitoring operation being carried out there. A team of three, headed by John Sheringham, has left and is now in Nairobi where it is hoped we may be able to find a suitable location. Sheringham expects to be away for about four weeks, and I hope that as a result of this survey we will be able to say positively whether an operation will be worthwhile, and to know if sufficient support will be forthcoming for it to be set up.

As so often happens in these cases, the decision was reached very suddenly and I could not really give you any advance warning of this because the whole thing had to be mounted in a matter of days. However, you will be gratified that this progress has been made, and I am reasonably optimistic that if the survey proves successful a monitoring operation may well follow. It is difficult to assess at this stage the precise size of the operation, but obviously it would start off in quite a small way, as there would be no intention, I think, to do monitoring in languages other than the local dialects (except, of course, possibly English and French) and in Arabic - monitoring of which is either impossible or marginal from Kyrenia or Caversham. I am also not able to give you very much idea of the mechanics of such an operation, but my intention would be that the local Governments should be supplied with a wire service, should they so desire, as well as a wire service back to Caversham which

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would, of course, be fed into your pipe line here, but I will keep you informed of progress and of our thinking as we go along.

We are alive to the possibility of monitoring West African broadcasts from this area also, and would hope that any operation would do what it could in this direction.

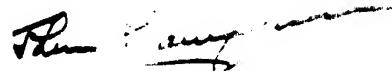
If Nairobi fails as a site, we may also look at Hargeisa, but we have not got very hopeful reception reports about that area and communications from there are not particularly good, but I am hopeful that from our information we should find Nairobi reasonably satisfactory.

I am afraid that at the present time I can do no more than give you this information, which I hope will be helpful to you in the context of the review which I know you are doing of this problem, and express the hope that something may come of it. I would be most interested to hear of your current thinking in this field, because North Africa in particular is an area which we feel, I think along with you, is one in which there could well be some development, and I know you have plans for doing something here.

I am also writing to you on various other matters, but I want to get this information off to you as quickly as possibly so I am not dealing with those in this letter.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



J. T. Campbell  
Head of Monitoring Service



Washington 25, D.C.  
U.S.A.

JTC/JB

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